

In the Abstract:

Page 71, line 1, ✓ replace the heading with the following new heading:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following new paragraph.

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A The present invention provides a bacterium belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium*, by which DNA coding for a protein having an antitumor activity or DNA coding for a protein having the activity of converting a precursor of an antitumor substance into the antitumor substance is delivered to tumor tissues specifically under anaerobic conditions thereby expressing the protein encoded by the DNA, as well as a pharmaceutical composition comprising the anaerobic bacterium.

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1, 2 and 26 ✓ ✓ ✓ without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows.

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A 3. (Amended) A method for delivering a gene in a system for delivering a DNA specifically to tumor tissues under anaerobic conditions, said system comprising a bacterium selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium pseudolongum*, *Bifidobacterium thermophilum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, wherein said bacterium belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* and transformed with a recombinant DNA having said DNA is used as a gene